



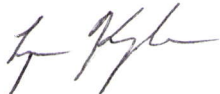
State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor  
Kathleen Clarke  
Executive Director  
Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210  
PO Box 145801  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801  
801-538-5340  
801-359-3940 (Fax)  
801-538-7223 (TDD)

May 25, 2000

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Lynn Kunzler, Reclamation Specialist 

RE: Site Inspection, SF Phosphates Ltd., Co., Vernal Phosphate Operations, M/047/007, Uintah County, Utah

Date of Inspection: May 24, 2000  
Time of Inspection: 9:00 am.  
Conditions: Cloudy  
Participants: Mike Slater, SF Phosphates; Lynn Kunzler and Jared Sorensen, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: Evaluate Reclaimed Sites for Reclamation Success.

We began this inspection by reviewing the reclamation progress map submitted to the Division as part of the annual report for this operation. Six areas were identified that needed to be examined to determine whether reclamation efforts were successful. Five of the areas were reclaimed in 1997, and one area had been reclaimed in 1993 and had been reseeded in 1996.

The first area visited is located east of the conveyor in "Panel B" and as 10.3 acres in size. While alfalfa dominated the site, many of the seeded species were observed, including crested wheatgrass, intermediate wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, russian wildrye, cicer milkvetch and indian ricegrass. Results of sample transects shows vegetation ground cover to be 50%. This far exceeds the reclamation success standard of 24.5%. It is recommended that this area be released from further reclamation responsibility.

The second area visited is a 5.0 acre parcel due north of the first area and is within both Panel B and Panel C. Vegetation composition was much the same as the first area, but also included a native astragalus sp. and 4-wing saltbush. Vegetation ground cover is 62%. It is recommended that this area be released as well.

The third area visited was a 14.6 acre parcel west of the conveyor in Panel B. Vegetation in this area differed from the first two areas by having less alfalfa and a greater grass component. Also, 4-wing saltbush was more common. Vegetation ground cover on this area is 44%,

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which was significantly less than the first two areas. However, it still exceeded the reclamation success standard of 24.5%. It is recommended that this area be released.

The fourth area visited was a small 1.5 acre parcel located north of the western edge of the third area. This area again was dominated by alfalfa. Vegetation cover on this area is 82%. It is recommended that this area be released.

The fifth area visited was a 33.6 acre parcel located south of the third and fourth areas. This area again had more shrubs and grasses and less alfalfa. Vegetation ground cover was determined to be 52%, which exceeds the reclamation success standard. It is recommended that this area be released as well.

The last area visited for reclamation success is a 5 acre parcel located in the northwest corner of Panel D. This area had been reclaimed in 1993, but did not meet success standards in 1996 and was re-seeded the fall of 1996. While vegetation ground cover was lowest in this area at 32%, plant diversity was much greater. Other species observed included a senecio species, woody flox, blue flax, erigeron sp., snowberry, Utah juniper, and sagebrush (most of these additional species were a result of natural invasion of the vegetation from the adjacent undisturbed areas. As with the other areas, it is also recommended that this area be released.

In summary, six areas were examined to determine whether reclamation success has been achieved. All areas meet the reclamation success standard and should be released from further reclamation responsibility. This includes the last 5 acres of 1993 reclamation not previously released and all (65.0 acres) of the 1997 reclamation.

During this inspection, we also viewed the testplot area for the tailings pond. Tailings are being slurried to the site via a 6-inch pipe. We were told that the deepest area currently is about 2 feet deep. It is expected to have the required amount of tailings on the testplot within the next several months.

Several photos were taken.

jb  
cc: Ron Ryan, SF Phosphates  
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